

REMARKS

In the non-final Office Action mailed March 17, 2008, the Examiner rejected all of the pending claims 1-35 under 35 U.S.C. § 103. Applicant has canceled claim 23. Applicant has amended claims 1, 5, 8, 12, 13, 16, 17, 20, 21, 22, 24, 28, 29, 32, and 35. These amendments add no new matter. Claims 13, 21, and 29 were rewritten in independent form without any substantive modification.

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of pending claims 1-22 and 24-35 in view of the amendments above and the following remarks.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 103

The Office Action rejected claims 1-35 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Ervin (U.S. Patent No. 6,504,266) in view of Elwood (U.S. Patent No. 6,216,479). Of these, claims 1, 8, 13, 16, 21, 24, 29, 32, and 35 are independent.

In rejecting claims 1-35, the Office Action only specifically addressed independent claim 1 and dependent claims 2-7, and then stated that the remaining independent and dependent claims were “rejected on the same basis as set forth hereinabove.” However, claims 1-8 did not include the subject matter of the amendments to the independent claims as is addressed below. Importantly, this subject matter was already present in dependent claims 13, 21, and 29, which have been rewritten in independent form, but the subject matter was not addressed in the Office Action.

Applicant has also amended each of the independent claims to more particularly define the subject matter sought to be patented. The amendments add no new matter. Support for the amendments can be found in Applicant's specification as originally filed—for example, in Figure 3 and the description at paragraphs 0024 and 0027. Applicant submits that each of the amended independent claims defines subject matter that is patentable over Ervin in view of Elwood, as do each of the rejected dependent claims.

Amended claim 1 recites a delay module comprising “a signal quality detector configured to detect a signal quality between a power supply line and a system component” and “a delay

generator configured to generate a delay in response to the signal quality detector detecting an insufficient signal quality.” The amendment to claim 1 more particularly points out that this “insufficient signal quality” is detected when “the signal quality on the power supply line is unstable over a period of time.” Following the delay, the signal quality detector is “configured to again detect the signal quality between the power supply line and the system component.” The delay module also includes “a switch configured to selectively close upon the signal quality detector detecting sufficient signal quality.”

The references cited in the Office Action do not disclose or suggest the subject matter of Applicant's amended claim 1. Instead, Ervin relates to a system that calculates and compares power available from a number of power supplies to the power required by the various loads on the system, to ensure that the power supplies are not overloaded during power up. [See Fig. 2, and corresponding description at col. 3, lines 34-44.] Elwood relates to a programmable electronic start-up delay for staggering the start-up of refrigeration units running on a single power source, which is meant to prevent the overloading of the power source. [Abstract.] Neither of these two references teaches detecting insufficient signal quality when the signal quality on the power supply line is unstable over a period of time.

For at least these reasons, amended claim 1 defines subject matter that is patentable over Ervin and Elwood, as do dependent claims 2-7. Independent claims 8, 16, 24, 32, and 35 were similarly amended and are patentable over Ervin and Elwood for at least the reasons described above with reference to claim 1, as are dependent claims 9-12, 14-15, 17-20, 22-23, 25-28, 30-31, and 33-34. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner remove the § 103 rejections of these claims.

CONCLUSION

Applicant submits that pending claims 1-22 and 24-35 are in condition for allowance and requests favorable consideration of these claims.

It is believed that all of the pending claims have been addressed. However, the absence of a reply to a specific rejection, issue, or comment does not signify agreement with or

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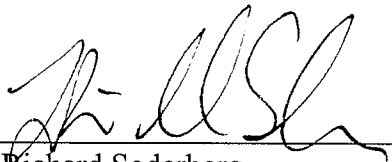
Attorney's Docket No.: 16113-1324001 / GP-271-00-US

concession of that rejection, issue, or comment. In addition, because the arguments made above may not be exhaustive, there may be reasons for patentability of any or all pending claims (or other claims) that have not been expressed. Finally, nothing in this paper should be construed as an intent to concede any issue with regard to any claim, except as specifically stated in this paper, and the amendment of any claim does not necessarily signify concession of unpatentability of the claim prior to its amendment.

Please apply \$630.00 for excess independent claim fees and any other charges or credits to deposit account 06-1050.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 6/20/08



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